

Lincoln, NE – Congressman Jeff Fortenberry has selected 18 students from eastern Nebraska to receive nominations to America's top military academies.

"A military academy appointment is a tremendous honor and a great responsibility," Fortenberry said. "Nominees must demonstrate capacity for leadership, personal integrity, and rigorous scholarship. I am pleased to nominate several young Nebraskans who meet these qualifications."

Following are the 2010 nominees:

Owen Bond of Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca High School. Owen is the son of Jerry and Cathrin Bond and has been nominated to the United States Air Force Academy.

Zachary Cottle of Omaha Skutt Catholic High School. Zachary is the son of Larry and Nova Cottle and has been nominated to the United States Military Academy.

Ethan Ebitto of Lincoln East High School. Ethan is the son of John and Crystal Ebitto and has been nominated to the United States Military Academy.

Drew Fairchild of Humboldt-Table Rock-Steinauer High School. Drew is the son of Sara Fairchild-Flynn and Mitchell Flynn and has been nominated to the United States Air Force Academy.

Aaron Frey of Lincoln Pius X High School. Aaron is the son of Keith and Mary Lynn Frey and has been nominated to the United States Naval Academy.

Ethan Fritz of Falls City High School. Ethan is the son of Lyle and Noala Fritz and has been nominated to the United States Military Academy.

Aleck Gao of Lincoln Southwest High School. Aleck is the son of Duanduan Wang and Jinnian Gao and has been nominated to the United States Naval Academy.

Austin Heckman of Milford High School. Austin is the son of Jeffrey and Andrea Heckman and has been nominated to the United States Air Force Academy.

Britt Jensen of Fremont Senior High School. Britt is the son of Scott and Joy Jensen and has been nominated to the United States Air Force Academy.

Schyler Kerns of Lincoln Southwest High School. Schyler is the son of Stu and Kelli Kerns and has been nominated to the United States Air Force Academy.

Daniel Moles of Johnson County Central High School. Daniel is the son of Jack and Shelley Moles and has been nominated to the United States Naval Academy.

Jade Perry of Lincoln Northeast High School. Jade is the daughter of Toney Perry and Joyce Moore and has been nominated to the United States Naval Academy.

Connor Rise of Omaha Brownell-Talbot High School. Connor is the son of Richard and Carrie Rise and has been nominated to the United States Naval Academy.

Austin Safranek of Lincoln Pius X High School. Austin is the son of Tom and Ann Safranek and has been nominated to the United States Military Academy.

Jonathan Siefkes of Millard West High School. Jonathan is the son of Karin Siefkes and Chris Siefkes and has been nominated to the United States Air Force Academy.

Trevor Smith of Lincoln Southeast High School. Trevor is the son of Anthony Smith and Michele Spadt and has been nominated to the United States Naval Academy.

Erin Walker of Wahoo Public High School. Erin is the daughter of Drew and Linda Walker and has been nominated to the United States Naval Academy.

Dylan Woldt of Lincoln East High School. Dylan is the son of Wayne and Holly Woldt and has been nominated to the United States Air Force Academy.

The military academies will now consider each nominee for an appointment.

"I expect these individuals will represent Nebraska well in their future endeavors," Fortenberry said. "Please join me in congratulating them for their exceptional achievements."

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